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COUNTRY Poland/US R

SUBJECT Polish-Soviet Military Collaboration

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PLACE
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*Return to [REDACTED]*DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]
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1. Early in 1948, in the period immediately preceding the signing of the Polish-Soviet Military Agreement concerning the rearmament and reequipping of the Polish army by the Soviets, Marshal Zymierski of the Polish General Staff was summoned to Moscow for the purpose of secretly committing the Polish army to the Soviet strategy in a future war.
2. In return for aid and equipment, the Soviet General Staff requested a secret commitment on the part of the Polish General Staff authorizing the Soviet Staff to use the Polish army as the vanguard in the initial Soviet attack against Western Europe.
3. Marshal Zymierski vigorously opposed this plan and threatened to resign rather than accept such a condition. In support of his opposition Marshal Zymierski claimed that the Poles could not survive such a sacrifice in view of the tremendous losses sustained by them in World War II.
4. In conclusion a three-point compromise was reached whereby the Polish General Staff was subordinated and for practical purposes incorporated with the activities of the Soviet General Staff, and in event of emergency the Polish Staff was to become entirely under Soviet direction. (At least one purge of Polish General Staff officers has taken place to facilitate this development.) Secondly, in the event of war all Polish facilities were to be immediately made available to the Russians, and third, the Polish army was to be sent against Italy, where much less resistance is expected in view of the strength of the Italian Communist Party.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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